

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Isom Family**

**HUSBAND** Lucas D. Isom

Birth date..... 1818 Place.....  
 Christening date..... Place.....  
 Death date..... 1877 Place.....  
 Burial date..... Place.....  
 Husband's Father..... Husb. Mother (Maiden Name).....  
 Marriage date (Husb.)..... Place.....  
 Other Wives of Husband (if any, list in order).....

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?  
From - Lucas Isom  
236 Pecos Avenue  
Shreveport, Louisiana

**WIFE** Susan Harriet Evans

Birth date..... 1835 Place.....  
 Christening date..... Place.....  
 Death date..... 1918 Place.....  
 Burial date..... Place.....  
 Wife's Father..... Wife's Mother (Maiden Name).....  
 Other Husbands of Wife (if any, list in order).....

Name and address of person submitting this sheet.  
Blaise Isom  
Mrs. Isaac Isom  
217 So. Wood Lake  
Miss Angela

Place Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			*MARRIED (First Husband or Wife) *List additional marriages with dates on reverse side of sheet.
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
m	1 <u>Emmet D. Isom</u>										Date..... To <u>Lyda Henkle</u>
m	2 <u>Adolphus E. Isom</u>										Date..... To <u>Mrs. J. B. Addison</u>
m	3 <u>Arthur Newton Isom</u> *	Feb.	1,	1861							Date <u>April 20th 1875</u> To <u>Sarah Ethel Arnold</u>
m	4 <u>Andrew Minter Isom</u>										Date..... To
m	5 <u>Charles Lucas Isom</u>										Date..... To <u>Mrs. Sarah (Wichest) Mirson</u>
m	6 <u>Willie Isom</u>										Date..... To <u> Died single</u>
	7										Date..... To
	8										Date..... To
	9										Date..... To
	10										Date..... To
	11										Date..... To
	12										Date..... To
	13										Date..... To
	14										Date..... To
	15										Date..... To

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I am sending you a copy of the family tree. I got the papers from Izzie Davis. I believe made two copies one for you, she kept one. I think you had yours but I expect this is the one. So I am sending it to you. I don't know the Isom family tree but will tell you what I know.

My great grandfather was Arthur Isom  
My grandfather was Newton  
Addison Isom. He had ~~four~~ <sup>two</sup> brothers  
Luke, Arthur that I know of.  
Uncle Luke's children - grand children  
live in Miss. & Louisiana.  
Newton Addison Isom married  
Nancy Elizabeth Cathey.

- 5 children.
1. Alice - July 30, 1846 married  
John Clark Kended 1871 at Oxford  
Miss.
  2. Eliza <sup>who married</sup> <sup>&</sup>  
Ed. Davis at Merms
  3. James - who became a Baptist  
Preacher & died in early 80's  
in Miss.
  4. Betty Webster <sup>John Aunts.</sup>
  5. Harriet Dudley  
Betty married Hugh Davis at Merms  
Harriet married W. B. Wilgoff in July  
lived in Sterling.

Cousins of Thomas

There was a Dr. Thomas Dudley Isom  
whose daughter Mary French was the  
Mrs. Petrie who sent me the silver calling  
card tray. One of her daughters  
Mrs. Marian Petrie Mitchell was the  
woman I saw in Oxford who had the  
lovely old furniture. Her sister Kitty  
lives in St. Louis. There were two boys.



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Pages 79 and 80 of Wills and Settlements Book A, Volume 1--1807-1820.

William Isham's  
Last Will and Testament

William Isham  
Joseph Peyton  
Executors

In the name of God and man I. William Isham, of the County of Maury and the State of Tennessee, being in a low state of health but sound of mind, calling to mind the mortality of my body and that it is appointed for all men to die do make this my last will and testament.

First, I will that my body be decently buried and all my lawful debts paid and the remaining part of my estate to be distributed in the manner following.

Unto my beloved son, William, I give and bequeath a negro man by the name of Cap and a negro boy by the name of Bob, also a black horse known by the name of Negro.

Unto my beloved son, Henry, I give and bequeath a negro boy by the name of Goliah and a roan mare known by the name of Cos (?).

Unto my beloved son, Dudley, I give and bequeath one negro girl by the name of Nance (?), one young bay mare, and I also will that he shall have one years schooling, boarding and clothing, one saddle and bridle out of my estate. *[Moved to Miss lived near as far - died there]*

Unto my beloved son, Charles, I give and bequeath one negro boy by the name of James and certain farm beasts that he now has in his possession. *[Died 1816]*

Unto my beloved son, George, I give and bequeath one negro boy by the name of Sampson and certain farm beasts that he now has in his possession.

Unto my beloved son, Arthur, I give and bequeath one negro woman by the name of Nann (?) and as much property as will make his equal to a Negro boy by the name of James that I gave my son Charles and also his horse beasts that he claims. *[Died in Pa. St. Summary, Paris 1854 Father of Lucas Dudley]*

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Page 2 of William Isham's Last Will and Testament.

Unto my beloved son, Jonathan, I give and bequeath one negro boy by the name of Tom—and I also will that my negro woman by the name of Lin(?), my horses, cattle, hogs, farming tools, household furniture, and all and every part of my estate not willed above be equally divided amongst all my sons,

*Filed in  
Sept. 15, 1813  
in Tennessee  
Maury County*

James and John included.

*Father of Dr.  
Thomas Dudley  
died in  
1824 Maury  
Co., Tenn.*

And I also appoint my beloved son, William and Joseph Peyton, executors of my last will and testament.

This I acknowledge to be my last will and testament and I do hereby disown all others. Whereunto I set my hand this 12th day of February in the year of our Lord 1813.

William      his  
                 X      Isom  
                 mark

Tyt

Jonathan Isham      (Jurat)

John Bell      (Jurat)

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*Daughter of Mr. Thomas Dudley Isom,  
Great-uncle of Mr. Dudley R. Isom*

# Sarah Isom — A Woman of Presence

Everything about Sarah McGehee Isom commanded attention — her appearance, her personality, even her voice lent to her a “presence” rarely seen in women of her generation.

She was, by all accounts, a tall, rawboned red-haired woman with a warm heart, a quick temper and a dominant character. She was considered brilliant, a woman who had strong opinions and who did not hesitate to state them. She was gifted with a voice of great range and volume that matched her outspoken nature.

Sarah Isom spent her life making great use of the voice and the “presence” for which she was so well known.

She received her early education in her hometown of Oxford and then studied at Augusta Seminary in Virginia. At Augusta Seminary, Miss Isom’s talent in public speaking was recognized and her father, Dr. Thomas D. Isom — one of the early settlers of Oxford, was advised to send her to the Philadelphia School of Expression for further study. There she was a student of the talented professor James E. Murdock. At her graduation, it is reported, Professor Murdock praised her: “You are the brightest and most eminent pupil I have ever instructed.” She did further study in Boston under George Riddle and Madame Janauschek, both prominent oratorical teachers. Soon afterwards, critics who heard her readings proclaimed that should she choose the stage for her profession, she could become America’s greatest tragic actress.

Although she did not become a professional actress, she was still widely recognized as one of the world’s leading orators. She was invited to read in London and Europe as well as in many parts of America. An avid Shakespearean reader, she was invited to make the opening address at the Shakespeare Jubilee Celebration at Statford-on-Avon, England.

In 1885, however, she received a special kind of recognition. The board of trustees of The University of Mississippi elected her to the Chair of Elocution at the University

in Oxford. The appointment was a tribute to her outstanding oratorical skills, particularly since she would be the first woman appointed to the faculty in Mississippi, and, as well as can be determined, the first in the South.

Her career at the University spanned two decades, and she became a favorite with her students. Her demand for excellence in the use of the voice required students to practice their oratory outside class. Many of them found “favorite” spots around town to practice. Two of her students lived near the Oxford cemetery and began practicing there regularly. Other townspeople who lived nearby began to think the cemetery was “haunted,” when they heard the uproarious noises coming from that direction in the evening.

On another occasion, during the annual Shakespearean festival, Miss Isom is reported to have assigned a chaperon to her star orator with the instructions, “Let him drink enough to inspire him but not enough to incapacitate him.” The oratory was judged the best ever.

Other stories, it seems, Miss Isom told about herself. During one of her many trips abroad, she was staying at a hotel in Venice in a room overlooking the canals. Late one night, she wandered onto the balcony and began reciting Lady Macbeth’s sleepwalking scene from Shakespeare’s “Macbeth.” She became so immersed in her recitation that she did not realize, until she finished the scene and heard applause from below the balcony, that a crowd had gathered below, drawn by the sound of her voice.

Her death in 1905 came unexpectedly. Her students memorialized her in the Ole Miss yearbook that year: “. . . In her work here in the University she never tolerated anything but the purest and best literature, and because of her very truth and refinement her interpretation of these selections was characterized by wonderful force and artistic finish. . . impressed through the medium of her classes much of her personality on the State of



Sarah McGehee Isom

Mississippi; and the robust quality of her art and of the selections she gave to her students tended not to enervate but to strengthen their manhood and to preserve in them the ideals of the South.”

One of her best-known students was Stark Young, who became a renowned theatre critic of the early to mid-1900s. In a 1957 letter to one of Miss Isom’s acquaintances and biographers Maude Morrow Brown, Young wrote of Miss Isom: “When it was asked where I had studied about the theatre and what was the background of (my) criticisms . . . the only reply I had was my experience in that and arts in general, my reading, and at the final base of it all, my work with Miss Isom. It came to me slowly how much I owed to her, especially in the reading of lines and the rhythm of words. I have heard most of the great actors of the last forty years . . . I can truly say, and with great emphasis, that Miss Isom was the finest reader I have ever heard, of prose especially . . . It took me a good deal of experience in the world theatre before I realized her superb qualities and what I owe to her. It is by comparing her with great stage reading as I have seen it that I have come to realize this.” **M**

## Centennial Celebration Planned

As the University prepares for its centennial commemoration of the admission of women as students, plans for the celebration include a wide variety of activities ranging from appearances by well-known female celebrities and Ole Miss alumnae to special seminars focusing on women to exhibits depicting the 100 years

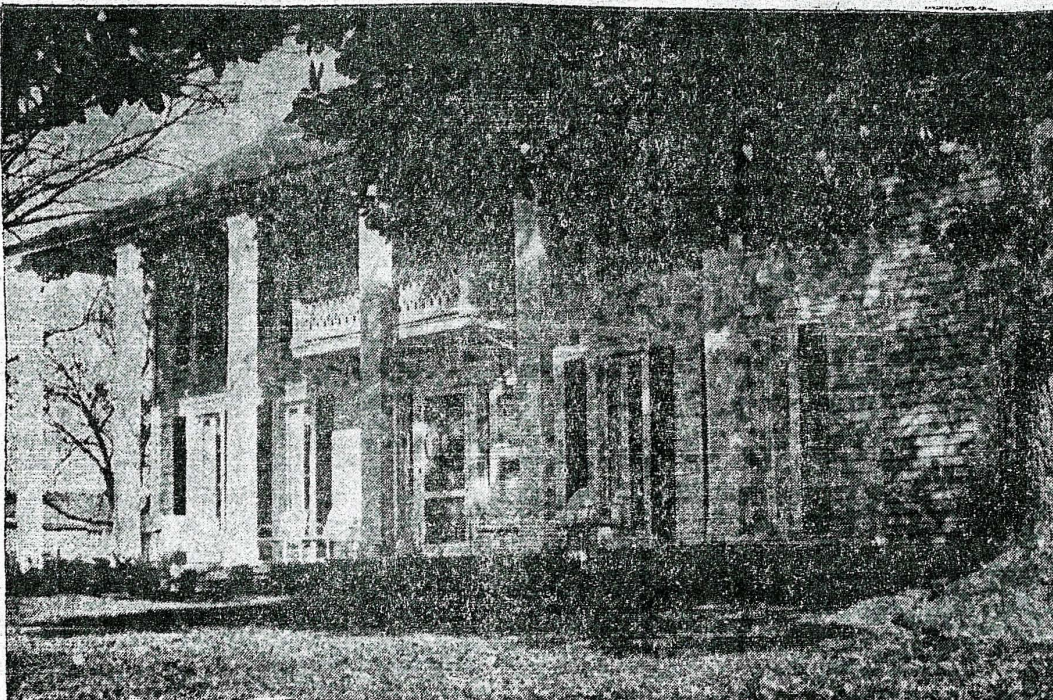
women have been students on campus.

The opening event of the year-long celebration will be a guest appearance by Leontyne Price, internationally acclaimed Metropolitan Opera star. She will appear April 21 in a campus-wide program in Fulton Chapel and on April 22 will present a concert at the Mississippi Memorial

Coliseum in Jackson co-sponsored by the University and the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association. Tickets for the Jackson concert may be purchased through the Central Ticket Office at Ole Miss.

Another highlight of the centennial will be a photographic exhibit which will





Open Mornings and Afternoons  
... located at 1003 Jefferson Avenue

# The Isom Place

If young Thomas Dudley Isom had not had a dream in his heart at the age of 21 — that this very spot should become the home of a great university similar to the one in Oxford, England, and the personal magnetism to influence others so that his dream has become a reality — many of us, who live in Oxford today, would never have come here.

Certainly the present residents of the old Isom Home at 1003 Jefferson, Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Worthy, would not have come to Oxford to live had there been no university here. Dr. Worthy is Professor of Audio-Visual Education at Ole Miss, and Mrs. Worthy at one time taught at the university. For the past three years she has served as the able and dedicated President of the Mississippi Congress of Parents and Teachers.

THUS THE cycle of the Old Isom Home has been completed. One hundred and twenty-five years after it was built by the man, who was most instrumental in bringing the University to Oxford, it passed into the proud ownership of another family dedicated to education—both formal and informal.

A newcomer to Oxford, who is interested in its history, will not inquire far until he begins to hear the name of Dr. Isom.

The Centennial Issue of the Oxford EAGLE, dated Dec. 10, 1963, has a picture heading of First Citizen of Lafayette.

The account under the picture reads: "Although he was not the first white man to settle in the county, Dr. T. D. Isom is usually given the title of Lafayette's First Citizen, because of the leading part he took in the formation of the County and its later affairs."

In the "History of Oxford" by Mrs. Minnie Holt Smith, 1935, we find the following:

"IN 1835, Thomas Dudley Isom of Maury County, Tennessee, then only 19 years old, was sent by a trading company (Chisholm, Martin and Craig located at Pontotoc) to Lafayette County with the Indians "on the ridge." He opened business in a log-house — thus becoming the first white settler and

on a name. The name OXFORD was suggested by Thomas D. Isom, who voiced the hope that such a promising spot would catch the plume of the State University then under consideration.

There is no record of the exact date, when the Isom Home was built, but there is reason to believe that the three room log cabin around which the rest of the house was later constructed went up along with the first crude houses of early Oxford, and was certainly completed by 1839, when young Dr. Isom returned to Oxford to begin his practice in one of these rooms.

He did not remain single, long. Sometime in 1880 or 1881, he met his future bride, Sarah McGehee, who had traveled all the way from Abbeville, South Carolina to visit her twin sister, Mary McGehee, wife of James Barr of Pontotoc. It is said that when Sarah McGehee Isom set out as a bride for her new home in Oxford that she brought with her—as a memento of the land she was leaving — some Magnolia seeds packed in a little box of cotton, from which sprang the great magnolia tree which stands in the yard of the Worthy House, today. It still perfumes the neighborhood with its blossoms.

WHEN DR. Isom passed away, in early May of 1902, all businesses in Oxford were suspended — the merchants and citizens attending the funeral in a body. The University of Mississippi and the public schools both white and colored held no exercises, but attended the funeral of the distinguisher dead. The services were conducted by Dr. W. D. Hedleston, a beloved minister and University Faculty member.

After the death of Dr. Isom the house passed through several families before the H. D. Worthys became the proud owners.

extended from Delaware to Wyoming and from Ohio to Arizona—they little dreamed how great would be their nostalgia for the state of their birth.

IN EACH place they lived they made a home for themselves, but regardless of the architecture — from old English cottage to Dutch Colonial to low rambling ranch type — they always managed to bring to the interiors a bit of the Old South. They always knew in their hearts that the fir trees, the maples, the olive and orange groves could never take the place of the spreading oaks and magnolias of Mississippi.

When in June of 1946, they saw the grove on the campus of Ole Miss, they knew that this was what they had been searching for, and they had come home to stay.

They had long admired in passing an old plantation-type house on Jefferson. On one cold January day in 1960, as they were driving idly past this place — they could scarce believe their eyes. There was a "For Sale" sign on the front lawn! Mrs. Worthy exclaimed excitedly, "Let's look into it! See what you can find out about it."

Dr. Worthy is, above all things, a man of action. On the following day, as Mrs. Worthy sat planning a P.T.A. Leadership Course, Dr. Worthy hurried by on his way to Rotary Club to tell her that he had just brought the Isom House! Mrs. Worthy almost gasped — she had never even seen the inside!

A contract was let immediately and restoration began at a rapid pace. Out came the surface wiring and added partitions, off came outside lead-to-porches and bathrooms. When the house was stripped to the original structure — all the classic lines of beauty came to life. After weeks of work, the random width, heart pine floors that were put down with hard molded square nails, took on a rich lustre. The 14" hand hewn logs, which were used for the foundation were as sound as the day when they were cut from the virgin forest. Not one termite was to be found in the whole structure.

During the restoration, Dr. Worthy was interested to find an old founda-

separate room in the back — connected to the house by a covered walkway, which led directly by cistern (122 ft. deep). This kitchen was destroyed years ago, along with the carriage house and the stable. The new kitchen was conveyed from the butler's pantry. Though it preserves a charm of Early America in its decor, it is as modern as tomorrow with its built-in ovens and labor saving devices.

Chimneys were torn down and built so that logs burning in open fireplace would be safe (more). Complete furnaces were stalled throughout and plans made for air conditioning for comfort in both summer and winter.

The Worthys saw the "For Sale" sign the last of January. In April they moved into a beautiful, spacious and most comfortable home which they have since shared continuously and almost continuously with any number of Oxford University groups — continuing tradition of true Southern hospitality.

As we enter the front hall from the spacious veranda, we get a glimpse of the family room with the impressive sealed-in log beam overhead. The large comfortable chairs, which flank the open fireplace invite one to sit down, relax or read one of the books or magazines which are always within easy reach.

ONE STEP-UP from the family room is the huge historical dining room. This room was built large enough — 29 ft. in length — to accommodate the Board of Trustees of the New University, which Isom was instrumental in bringing to Oxford. It is said that sometime Dr. Isom housed and fed these early trustees for two weeks at a time. It is stimulating to speculate on the interesting discussions concerning University problems that may have taken place around a table in this very room.

Dr. Worthy's office adjoins the dining room, near the back hallway, and can be easily shut off from household distractions.

To the right of the entrance hall is the parlor, with its antique rug, sofa and floor rug specially selected to recapture the charm which the room once knew. The original classic white iron man is a conversation piece.

Only the master bed-room opening off the parlor is on the first floor, but all of the bed rooms with their 14 feet ceilings and at least 20 by 20 dimensions — reflect the graciousness of the Old South.

ONE UPSTAIRS room is the study property of the Worthy's son, Thomas. The chief attraction of the room is the door opening into the attic hideway—30 ft. long.

In the last century, it served as a retreat for the young people, read the stored away letters brought by stage coach from friends and relatives in far away South Carolina.

Of the original trees only the giant Magnolia remains, and as one looks from the balcony, grass with the eye full spread of branches and the beauty of glassy dark green leaves, the incapable thought comes that through its long sure years of growing from a seed in a cigar box to this giant thing of beauty.

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